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Marseilles there is no cause for fear. As much can not, unfortunately, be claimed for the port of Toulon, the abominably unhealthy soil of which is an excellent factor for epidemics.

Although the reports from Algeria may be exaggerated, it behooves the government to be vigilant, and there is no doubt that it will be faithful to its task of preventing the disease from crossing the Mediterranean.

[See Dr. Heiser's letter from Naples contradicting this report.]

ARABIA.

Cholera in Matrah.

MASKAT, October 11, 1899.

SIR: I regret to inform you that cholera of a mild type has broken out at Matrah, a town of about 20,000 inhabitants, situated 3 miles west of Maskat. The disease had its origin at Kurrachee, India, where it became epidemic amongst Baluchis living in a village on the outskirts of the town. The municipal authorities there, having filled up a well, supposed to be impure, and supplied pipe water to the village the disease subsided. Subsequently a number of the survivors proceeded by sea to Gwadar, a small town on the coast of Beluchistan, belonging to his majesty the Sultan of Maskat, where the cholera again broke out and was epidemic for a period of one month. Some of the people of Gwadar who landed on this coast from native vessels and succeeded in evading quarantine, are supposed to have caused the outbreak at Matrah. I first heard of suspicious cases on September 25, and estimate that since that date about 135 persons have died of cholera. The disease is confined to the poorest classes of Baluchis and negroes. Those of them who have gone to the British hospital for medicines have, in every case, recovered. Several cases have occurred here, all having recovered, so far as I am aware, except those who did not obtain medicine from the hospital.

Yesterday I heard of cases of cholera at villages in the interior named Serur and Kajar.

At Matrah the disease appears to be gradually wearing itself out.

Respectfully,

A. MACKIRDY,
Vice Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

BRAZIL.

Report from Rio.

RIO DE JANEIRO, October 25, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official sanitary report for the week ended October 13.

There were 318 deaths from all causes, an increase of 27 as compared with the foregoing week; 12 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 10; 6 deaths from yellow fever, an increase of 2; 48 deaths from smallpox, a decrease of 10; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; 1 death from diphtheria and 2 deaths from measles, none before; 3 deaths from beriberi, an increase of 2, and 52 deaths from tuberculosis, a decrease of 6.

General information.

The general state of health at Rio de Janeiro is favorable. The smallpox that has prevailed here for some time has, indeed, decreased; the epidemic, however, continues. In the first week of October there were 58 deaths and 70 notified cases; in the next week there were only 48 deaths, but 122 notified cases, and there followed again an increase, 67 deaths being recorded. Cases of smallpox are spread over the whole city.

It is surprising that at this unusually early date there have already occurred cases of yellow fever, some of which have been fatal. In the first week of October there were 4 deaths, then occurred 6, and in the last week 3. That may be a symptom that the coming summer season will promote the development of yellow fever.

The state of health in the shipping is good.

At present, the greatest interest is taken in those cases of illness that have occurred at Santos, and which are considered as plague. In regard to this question I have sent to you a special report.

Bills of health.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: October 18, steamship *Coleridge*, British, for New York. October 20, steamship *Asiatic Prince*, British, for New York. October 23, bark *Landskrova*, British, for Barbados and United States.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary improvements proposed in 1893 for Santos.

[Letter No. 1.]

NEW YORK, N. Y., *November 20, 1899.*

SIR: I beg to acknowledge your favor of the 6th instant concerning the methods proposed for the abatement of yellow fever in Santos, Brazil, and will be very glad to tell you what I can regarding the matter. I have been so very busy with an urgent piece of work of late that I have been unable to reply sooner.

I regret exceedingly that I can not send you a copy of our report, but the edition was limited to 100 copies, and these were placed in public libraries and institutions in various parts of the world. There is a copy of the report in the Congressional Library, but there is no copy there of the plans. These were not published by us, but were redrawn and lithographed later in Brazil, and I have a set that I can lend you if you wish to look them over.

The studies were made at the request of the governor of the State of Sao Paulo, of which Santos is the seaport and the point from which most of the coffee of the State is shipped. The town is a small place of about 25,000 people, the better class of merchants not residing in Santos, but in Sao Paulo, on the elevated plateau, 30 miles back from the seacoast. As the works necessary to protect the place would be very expensive, and as the protection afforded by them would be to the financial advantage of the State, as well as the city of Santos, the two